

# **TOWN OF LUNENBURG MASSACHUSETTS OFFICE OF THE TOWN MANAGER**



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*Town Manager*

**COVID-19 Update**  
**October 13, 2020**

## **UPDATES FROM THE TOWN MANAGER**

Here are a number of updates specific to Lunenburg that will also be posted on the town website, town Facebook page, the “townwide” listserv, sent to the Lunenburg Ledger and to Public Access:

### COVID-19 in Lunenburg and Board of Health Notices:

The Board of Health issued their weekly update and as of October 9th there are 82 confirmed positive cases in Lunenburg and one death.

The COVID-19 Information Center page can be found [here](#).

## **UPDATES RECEIVED FROM THE STATE AND FEDERAL GOVERNEMENT:**

The Baker-Polito Administration continues to take steps to limit the spread of COVID-19 in Massachusetts. A comprehensive list of emergency orders and guidance is available at [mass.gov/covid19](https://mass.gov/covid19) (click [here](#)).

### COVID-19 in Massachusetts (as of 10/8/20):

As of October 8<sup>th</sup> there are 134,277 COVID-19 cases and 9,350 deaths and 2,360,825 patients have been tested to date by the MA State Public Health Laboratory, hospitals and commercial laboratories.

This information is now posted on the Department of Public Health COVID-19 website, with a breakdown of coronavirus cases by city and town. The page can be accessed by going to: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-response-reporting#covid-19-cases-by-city/town->. The Department of Public Health has created a dashboard as well with comprehensive, detailed COVID-19 data, including trend data, case rates, testing, and breakdowns by age, sex, race, ethnicity and geography. <https://www.mass.gov/doc/covid-19-dashboard->

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### Eviction Diversion Initiative:

The Baker-Polito Administration announced a comprehensive set of resources, known as the Eviction Diversion Initiative, to support tenants and landlords during the financial challenges caused by the pandemic. The goal of this initiative is to keep tenants safely in their homes and to support the ongoing expenses of landlords once the Commonwealth's pause of evictions and foreclosures expires on Saturday, October 17th.

The Administration is making a \$171 million total commitment this fiscal year, with \$112 million of new funding to support new and expanded housing stability programs during the remainder of the fiscal year, including:

- \$100 million commitment this fiscal year to expand the capacity of the Residential Assistance for Families in Transition (RAFT) program to provide relief to renters and landlords impacted by COVID-19
- \$48.7 million to HomeBASE and other rapid rehousing programs for when tenants are evicted and are at risk of homelessness
- \$12.3 million to provide tenants and landlords with access to legal representation and related services prior to and during the eviction process, as well as community mediation to help tenants and landlords resolve cases outside of court
- \$6.5 million for Housing Consumer Education Centers (HCECs), the “front door” for those facing a housing emergency
- \$3.8 million for the Tenancy Preservation Program (TPP), to provide case management support and to act as a neutral party to help tenants and landlords come to agreement.

In order to ensure tenants are aware of available resources, the Administration has kicked off a public information campaign, including a new option available to call the Massachusetts 2-1-1 information hotline, effective Tuesday, October 13th. Operators for 2-1-1 are trained to answer questions and connect residents to the agencies that administer RAFT and ERMA. An easier path to important information has also been launched on the state's website: [mass.gov/CovidHousingHelp](https://mass.gov/CovidHousingHelp).

### Helpful Links:

- [Mass.gov/findfoodhelp](https://Mass.gov/findfoodhelp)
- [Stop the Spread](#)
- [Reopening Massachusetts](#)
- [Mass.Gov/covid19](https://Mass.Gov/covid19)
- [Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency](#)
- [Unemployment & COVID-19](#)
- [Dept. Of Transitional Assistance Online Portal](#)
- [FrontlineMA.org](https://FrontlineMA.org)
- [Emergency Childcare Site](#)
- [COVID-19 Cost Eligibility and Tracking Guidance](#)

### COVID-19 Public Resources Map:

MEMA, together with MA VOAD and other partners, has developed a [COVID-19 Public Resources Map](#) showing the location of resources available to the public, such as food banks, houses of worship, and Project Bread site locations. Please note that this map is not inclusive

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of all resources and is only as accurate as the information that has been provided to MEMA.  
Stay Informed

- Get information from trusted sources. Visit <https://www.mass.gov/covid19> for the latest news, case counts, and lab testing results. Call 2-1-1 with questions. Text the keyword **COVIDMA to 888-777** to receive notifications to your phone. To receive these notifications in Spanish, text **COVIDMAESP to 888- 777**
- Take care of your emotional health:
- Call 2-1-1 and choose the “CALL2TALK” option.
- Samaritans is continuing operations 24/7, as always. During this unprecedented time, it can feel overwhelming to receive constant messages about COVID-19. Call or text their 24/7 helpline any time at 877-870-4673.
- The Disaster Distress Helpline, 1-800-985-5990, is a 24/7, 365-day-a-year, national hotline dedicated to providing immediate crisis counseling for people who are experiencing emotional distress related to any natural or human-caused disaster, including disease outbreaks like COVID-19. This toll-free, multilingual, and confidential crisis support service is available to all residents in the United States and its territories.